

Press Release

HARFORD COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Department of Emergency Services



PUBLIC SAFETY

"Ensuring a Safe
Harford"

EDUCATION

"Preparing Now,
Building for the Future"

EFFICIENCY IN GOVERNMENT

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"Growing and Sustaining
Harford's Prosperity"

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

"Protecting Our
Environment"

QUALITY LIVING

"Safeguarding What is
Important to Harford
County Citizens"

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Harford County Develops Protocols for Handling Ebola Patients

(Forest Hill, MD) - - Harford County Government, in cooperation with the Harford County Health Department, Upper Chesapeake Health System, the Harford County Volunteer Fire and EMS Association, the Department of Emergency Services and the Harford County Sheriff's Office, has developed the protocols for patients suspected of having Ebola. The protocols were implemented as of 7:00 a.m. Friday, November 7, 2014.

The Emergency Management branch of the Department of Emergency Services served as the coordinator and facilitator in the development of the protocols. The initiative began following a presentation by the Harford County Health Department and Upper Chesapeake Health System to county and municipal government in late October. The protocol was approved following a review by fire and EMS representatives, law enforcement, the Harford County Health Department, Upper Chesapeake Health System and the Harford County Hazardous Materials Response Team.

The recently implemented Ebola virus protocols commence when calls are received by the Harford County 911 Center, and include actions taken by first responders who treat and transport anyone suspected of having the Ebola virus.

"The new protocols provide specific guidance to our first responders who may encounter individuals that exhibit Ebola virus like symptoms," said Harford County Emergency Manager Rick Ayers. "The protocols include specific instructions when fire and EMS personnel, law enforcement personnel, or others emergency service providers come into contact with such patients," Ayers added.

To date there have been no reported cases of individuals who have contracted the Ebola virus in the State of Maryland.

To view the Harford County Health Department presentation on the Ebola virus, visit: <http://www.harfordcountyhealth.com/ebola-presentation/> or on the Department of Emergency Services website at www.harfordpublicsafety.org.

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"Preserving Harford's past; promoting Harford's future"

